Supernatural, Castiel/author's choice, Did You Just Punch Out Cthulhu?

Lucifer + Castiel set just post 5x19. Lucifer has come to his only brother on Earth who won't flee from his presence to mourn Gabriel. PG is the rating.

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Lucifer's hands are red, and bloody, and Castiel is afraid. He is afraid, for he is human (or close enough to count) and Lucifer is standing at the edge of his hospital bed.

"Who - " He has trouble speaking, out of fear. "Who did you kill?"

Lucifer looks at his hands, which are stained red, and even with a vessel that will disintegrate, it is wrong for his hands to be so red. Castiel wants to know who he killed, for his hands to remain so red.

"You didn't feel it?" Lucifer asks, eyebrows up. "I am surprised, Castiel."

Castiel glares at him, weak and too easy to break. He does not answer.

"Beyond the Gods and their manifestations," Lucifer says, studying the blood. "Gabriel."

Castiel falls silent, his glare fading. He knows why Lucifer is here, now. There is no grand scheme to use Castiel for some exotic reasons.

After a long moment of silence, he has to ask.

"Then the blood-?"

"Is from the pagans. Baldur's, mostly." Lucifer looks at it, shrugging. "They wanted me to show my conviction with force, and I obliged. I suspect they will avoid the rest of the conflict."

Castiel closes his eyes, nodding. Pagan deities enjoy symbolism, he knows, and forcing Lucifer to draw blood from them has earned their silence in the conflict. Baldur and the other deities will return to their realms, and the Winchesters will have no allies from their courts.

"Gabriel decided to ally himself with the Winchesters." Lucifer says, and there is sorrow in his voice.

"You didn't have to kill him," Castiel says, softly.

"I had no fire ring on hand, Castiel. He's not like you."

Castiel hears the unspoken *he was a threat, and could have killed me*.

He closes his eyes again.